

# READERS' FORUM

Family Motor Coaching welcomes letters from readers who would like to comment on articles published in the magazine or topics of interest to motorhome owners. Address letters to Readers' Forum, FMCA National Office, 8291 Clough Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45244; fax them to (513) 388-5286; or e-mail them to [readersforum@fmca.com](mailto:readersforum@fmca.com) and include your name and address. Because of the volume of letters we receive, we cannot draft individual replies. Letters that are chosen for publication in this column may be edited for space and clarity, and they will also appear on FMCA's Web site: [www.fmca.com](http://www.fmca.com).

## Northwest Area Moose Chapter To Form

Dear Editor:

The Moose Chapter FMCA is a new chapter being formed at the Northwest Area Rally on June 11, 2005. You do not have to attend the area rally (held at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center in Albany, Oregon) to attend this meeting, which takes place at 2:30 p.m. in Room 3. You may come just for the day and attend the meeting to decide whether to join the chapter.

For more information and an application, visit [www.fmcanw.org/moose](http://www.fmcanw.org/moose), or call me at (503) 949-2395.

George Arvidson, F259952  
Salem, Oregon

## Tricky Spots On Natchez Trace Parkway

Dear Editor:

A word of caution to RVers who plan to travel the Natchez Trace Parkway in Tennessee and Alabama. The road on

the portion of the parkway that is roughly north of U.S. 72 in Alabama — north of the Tennessee River — is not very hospitable toward high-clearance vehicles such as RVs. Tree limbs overhang the sides and traveled portion of the parkway. The limbs are so abundant and so low in many places that you can avoid them only by driving in the very center of the road.

This was brought to the attention of the National Park Service through their Web site more than 18 months ago and despite their assurance of prompt handling of the matter, the situation is still the same. If you value the roof-mounted equipment on your RV, you might reconsider traveling this portion of the parkway. The parkway south of U.S. 72 is in very good condition and presents no challenges for RVers.

Billy Owen, F241692  
Brandon, Mississippi

**Editor's note:** *A spokesperson for the Natchez Trace Parkway gave us this response to Mr. Owen's concerns:*

*"The Natchez Trace Parkway has made a concerted effort to remove tree limbs that hang over the motor road. Last year the parkway contracted with a company to do this removal. Their work included the areas in Alabama north of the Tennessee River Bridge and north of Highway 72.*

*"We realize that conditions can change frequently during periods of wind and rain. If a visitor notices a concern, we encourage them to note the mile marker location and contact the parkway at (800) 305-7417."*

## Modify Steps For Safety

Dear Editor:

I want to comment on the Dave Hamby article "What Kind Of Dirty Dog Would Steal Our Steps?" (February

2005, page 114). One of the members of our RV group, while intending to turn on the outside light, had inadvertently changed the automatic step to the setting that allows it to move in and out when the door is opened or closed. When she stepped out of the RV, she fell and broke her leg. Since that time members of our RV group have been coming up with ways to make an audio alarm that would warn when the step is coming out as you are opening the door.

We have a Kwikiee step that has a light underneath it. The light comes on only when the step is switched to the "in and out" position. I added an alarm (RadioShack part 273-055A) between the control unit and the light under the step. The light is connected to the control unit with a spade fitting. With two new spade fittings and a wire to ground, the modification is quick and easy (it cost a little more than \$3). The alarm is turned off when the door is closed or when the switch has locked the step in the "out" position.

I hope this suggestion will save others from stepping out of their RV into thin air.

Ed & Helen Burrows, F192818  
Agoura Hills, California

## Missouri River Cruise Makes Fine Stop

Dear Editor:

This past summer I had the privilege of coordinating a two-month trek that followed the Lewis and Clark trail from St. Louis, Missouri, to Astoria, Oregon. One of the most interesting and unusual stops we made was in Brownville, Nebraska, population 167.

Brownville is located near Interstate 29 in the southeast part of the state. Turn west at exit 110 in Missouri, cross the Missouri River on U.S. 136, and

*continued*